2005	
November 15	• Six-month open enrollment period starts for the new Medicare Prescription Drug Program (Part D).
December 31	 Last day to sign up for Medicare Part D program for benefits to start in January 2006. Dual eligibles (people on Medicare who also have Medicaid that pays their prescription costs) must choose a plan or face auto-enrollment.
2006	
January I	 Medicare Part D coverage starts for people who: 1. signed up before December 31, 2005, or 2. were automatically enrolled because they are dual eligibles (Medicaid pays their prescription costs).
January I – May 15	• For people who sign up after December 31, 2005 their Medicare Part D coverage starts the first day of the month after they enroll.
May I	 Medicare Part D coverage starts for people who had facilitated enrollment because they: applied for and were approved for "extra help," and have not yet selected a Medicare Part D plan. were enrolled in other federal assistance programs, such as SSI and Medicare Savings Programs, and have not yet selected a Medicare Part D plan.
May 15	• Six-month open-enrollment period ends for Medicare Part D program. Some people who do not enroll by this date may face a penalty.
May 16 – November 14	 Enrollment for Medicare Part D program ends except to people who: 1. have become newly eligible for Medicare during this period, 2. are switching to a Medicare Part D drug plan from another creditable plan, or 3. have a "Special Enrollment Period" due to a move or other factor.
June I	 Medicare Part D drug coverage starts for people who signed up by May 15, 2006.
November 15 – December 31	 Six-week annual enrollment period starts for current Medicare beneficiaries. Sign up starts for people who did not enroll by May 15, 2006 Opportunity to change Medicare Part D plan for 2007.
2007	
anuary	• Medicare Part D drug coverage starts for people who enrolled or changed

plans between November 15, 2006 and December 31, 2006.

January I